

29. A NEW COMBINATION IN *ASPIDOPTERYS* JUSS.  
(MALPIGHIACEAE)

Haines (1920) described *Aspidopterys hutchinsonii* as a new species closely allied to *A. obcordata* Hemsl. *A. hutchinsonii* is also closely allied to *A. tomentosa* (Bl.) Juss. In 1928 Niedenzu found that the distinctions between *A. tomentosa* and *A. obcordata* are not sufficient to treat them as separate species. He united these two and treated *A. obcordata* as a variety of *A. tomentosa* and proposed the new combination. Jacobs (1955) supported the view of Niedenzu (1928) and added another variety, viz. *A. tomentosa* var. *longirostris* (Arenes) Jacobs. The present studies on *A. hutchinsonii* have revealed that its distinction from *A. tomentosa* is not sufficient enough to treat it as a distinct species but are only just enough for a varietal status. Hence, the following new status and combination is proposed.

***Aspidopterys tomentosa* var. *hutchinsonii***  
(Haines) Srivastava, *status et comb. nov.*  
*A. hutchinsonii* Haines in Kew Bull. 1920  
(2): 67-86. 1920.

Stout climbers. Branches sub-woody, rough due to bases of fallen hairs; twigs tomentose. Leaves orbicular, 7-12 × 6-11 cm, suddenly cuspidate, bases straight or rounded, densely silky hairy beneath, coriaceous; petioles c. 15 × 3 mm, rusty hairy. Panicles short, lateral,

brown tomentose. Pedicels c. 1.2 cm long, articulated at c. 3 mm near the base, glabrous above articulation (in fruit). Sepals dorsally hairy; petals oblong, c. 3 mm long, glabrous. Samaras membranous, broadly elliptic to orbicular, 1.3-1.5 cm in diam etc, retuse at apex, cristate at nucleus on dorsal wing, cristate 5-7 × 1-2 mm, carpophores 3-4 mm long.

*Fls.*: Dec.-Feb.; *Frts.*: April-June.

*Distribution*: INDIA: Orissa, Mayurbhanj hills (2000-3000 ft.).

*Representative specimen*: Orissa: Mayurbhanj hills, Bhajam (2000 ft.), *Anonymous*, s.n. (DD 85846).

KEY TO THE VARIETIES OF *A. tomentosa* (BL.) JUSS.

- 1a. Leaves elliptic-obovate. Samaras ovate, 3.0-4.0 × 2.5-3.0 cm.
  - 2a. Leaf top shortly narrowed to rounded....  
..... *tomentosa*
  - 2b. Leaf top truncate to emarginate, if emarginate the top protruding from a wide apical sinus giving the leaf three topped appearance . . . . . *obcordata*
- 1b. Leaves orbicular or ovate-elliptic. Samaras sub-orbicular to orbicular or broadly elliptic, 1.3-2.5 cm in diam.
  - 3a. Leaves ovate-elliptic. Carpophores c. 5-7 mm long . . . . . *longirostris*
  - 3b. Leaves orbicular. Carpophores c. 3-4 mm long. . . . . *hutchinsonii*

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
ALLAHABAD 211 002,  
June 6, 1983.

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